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Young Men and Prayer

Thomas C. Richards

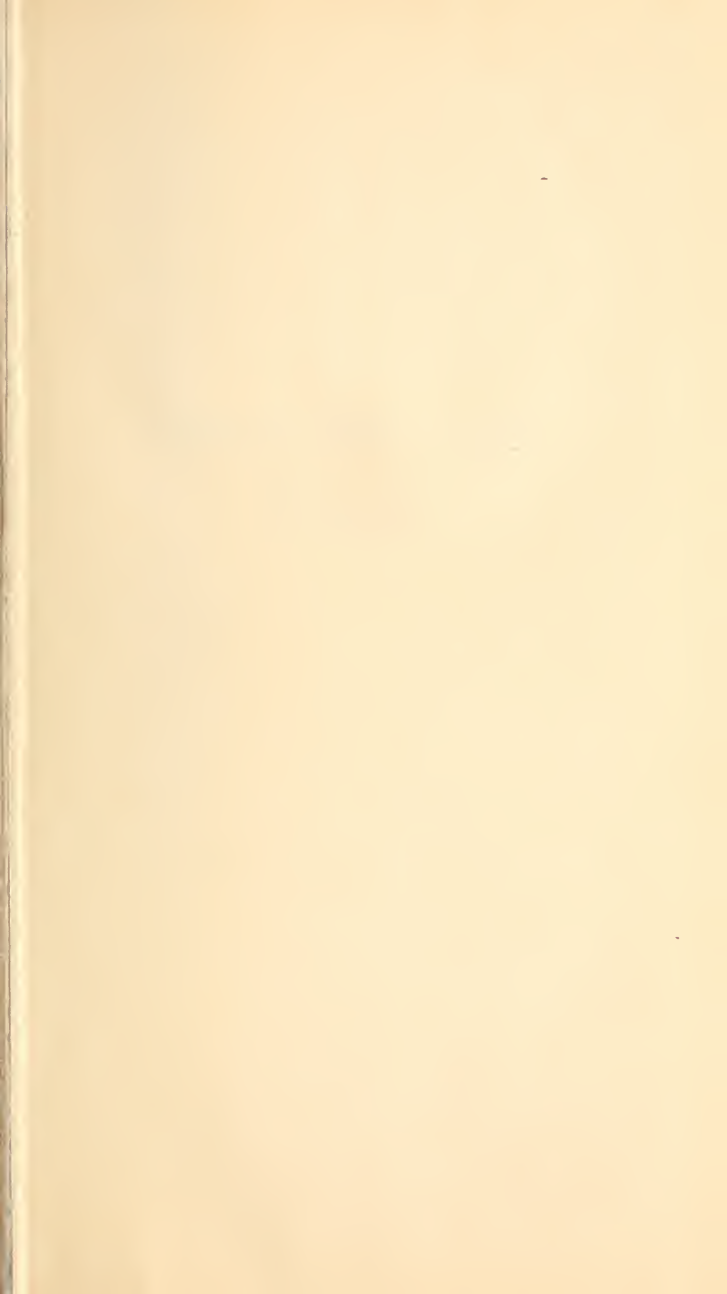


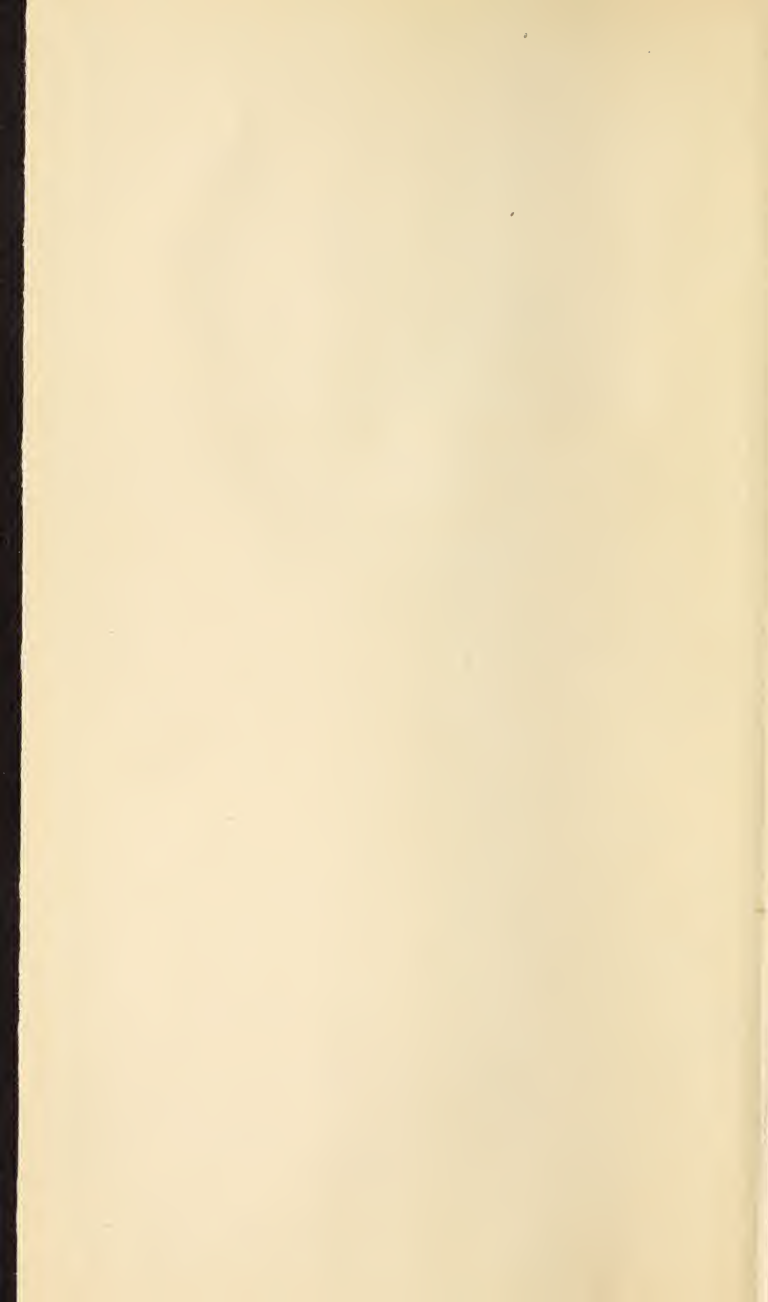
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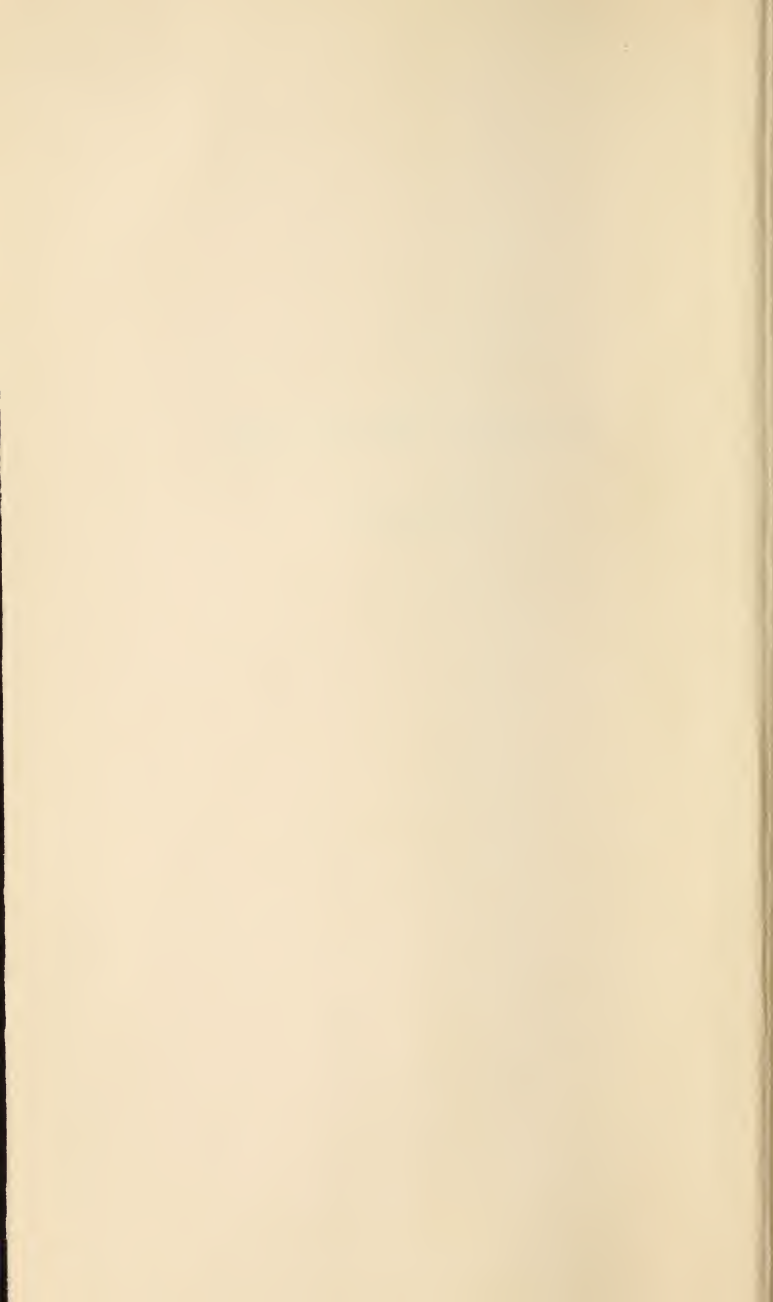
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Young Men and
Prayer



YOUNG MEN AND PRAYER

BY
THOMAS C. RICHARDS



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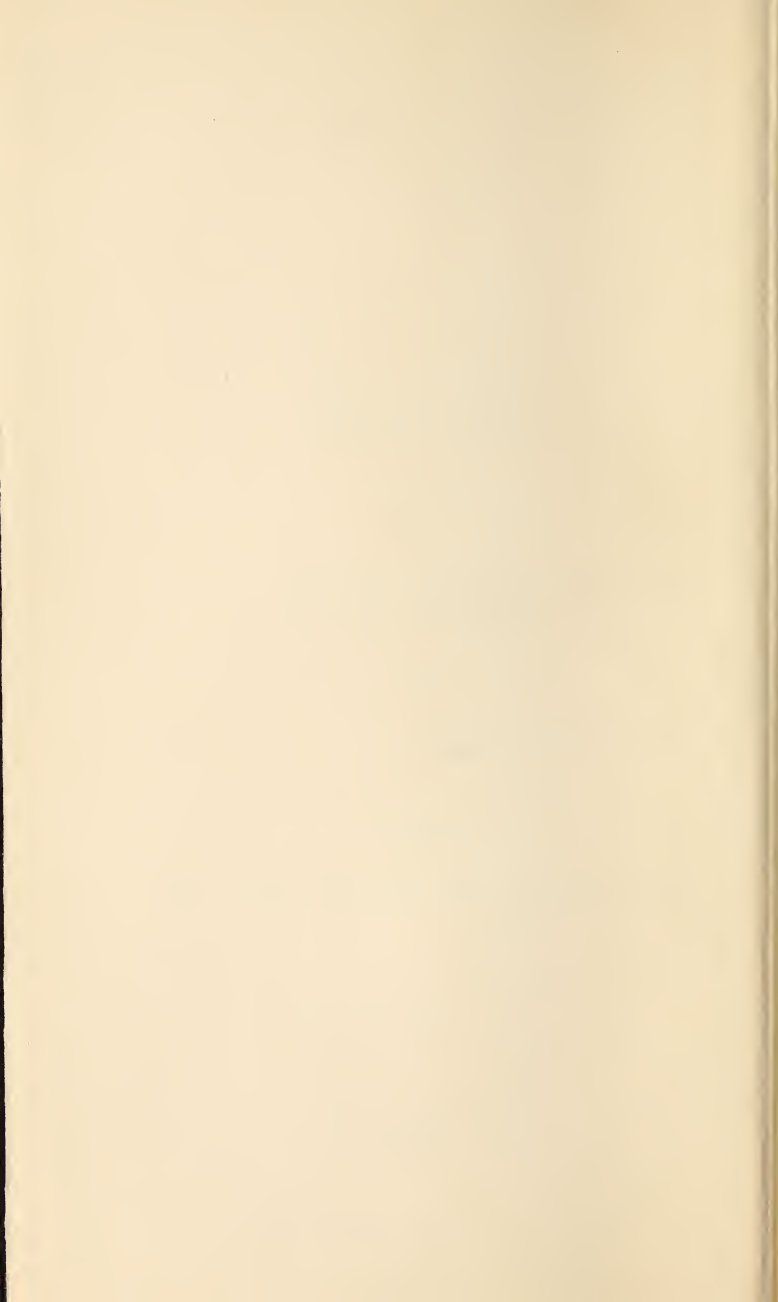
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SECTION I

STRONG MEN AND
PRAYER

STRONGER MEN

*O do not pray for easy lives.
Pray to be stronger men. Do not
pray for tasks equal to your
powers. Pray for powers equal
to your tasks. Then the doing of
your work shall be no miracle.
But you shall be a miracle. Every
day you shall wonder at yourself,
at the richness of life which has
come to you by the grace of God.*

—Phillips Brooks.

Young Men and Prayer

A YOUNG MAN'S PRAYER

I would be true, for there are those
who trust me;

I would be pure, for there are
those who care;

I would be strong, for there is
much to suffer;

I would be brave, for there is
much to dare.

I would be friend of all—the foe—
the friendless;

I would be giving and forget the
gift;

I would be humble, for I know my
weakness;

I would look up—and laugh—
and love—and lift.

—*Howard Arnold Walter,*
in Harper's Bazar.

A SOLDIER PRAYS

“In civil life he had always said his prayers and they had done him good too, in a way. When he first came into the army he kept up the habit deliberately and very self-consciously at first, expecting to be laughed at, but in a very little while they took no notice. He was not persecuted because he prayed and being ignored he gave it up, not all at once. He prayed after he went to bed, but then one day he forgot.” This is what Donald Hankey tells us in “The Student in Arms,” a very human document, in the chapter, “An Englishman Prays.”

“When he reached ‘somewhere in France’ he was not quite sure

of himself, and he prayed, half ashamed in the face of difficulties. He was not quite sure of himself, and he prayed that he might not be found wanting, but prayer had lost its meaning to him largely.

“A third stage came when he went over the top and a whiz-bang caught him in his leg and arm and he lay still between the lines, and his thoughts were long, long thoughts, and then came oblivion for a time. It was mid-day when he was wounded, but he woke to see the stars and the moon above him. All he could do was think. He was truly cut off from his fellowmen, and as he looked up at the stars there was no sympathy there. Broken and bleeding though he was, he was of finer stuff than

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they. He could suffer and he could understand his own littleness. There was something in him not in them. 'God,' he whispered softly. 'God everywhere.' Then like a tired child who has found its mother he kept repeating as a kind of a chant, 'Underneath are the Everlasting Arms.' They brought him in at last. He will never be able to go to the trenches again, but he is learning a new way of prayer."

A SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE TO PRAYER

"I have found in every trying circumstance that praying is a wonderful comfort. I do not know how a man can go through

it who has not a belief in God to fall back on.

“Your letters help me very much, with the knowledge of your prayer and what you say about God’s Presence.

“A man fully realizes his own physical futility in the face of modern warfare. There is nothing then to fall back on but his will-power, and I know that mine is worthless excepting I have the spiritual help which comes from my belief in God. Your words all help and strengthen that, so you are and will be a great help to me in the future.”—*Letters of “A Gentleman Unafraid,” published in Atlantic Monthly, April, 1918.*

GREAT SOLDIERS AT PRAYER

A Congressman who came back from the front says that the American soldier whose plans and campaigns are studied with the greatest zest and admiration on the other side is Stonewall Jackson. No American soldier was more intensely religious than he. His religion entered into every action of his life. His biographer says, "No duty, however trivial, was begun without asking a blessing or ended without returning thanks. He had long cultivated the habit of connecting the most trivial and customary acts of life with silent prayer."

An American statesman says that the most sublime figure in

American history is Washington on his knees at Valley Forge, where he personified the American people not depending on their own courage or power but looking to God for strength.

The Anglo-Saxon soldier who most of all deserves the title, the bravest of the brave, is Charles George Gordon, better known as Chinese Gordon. Every morning during his campaign there was placed outside his tent a white handkerchief, and the whole camp knew what it meant, black man and white man and yellow, Hindu, Moslem and Christian respected that flag, not of truce, but of prayer. For a half an hour in the busiest campaigns he would be alone with his God and pray with an earnestness and an abandon

that few men have achieved. That white handkerchief was the secret of his strength, of his unfaltering courage and unselfish life. Gladstone summed it up as he said, "He was a man who lived in close communion with his God."

THE WARRIOR'S PRAYER

Long since, in sore distress, I
 heard one pray,
 "Lord, who prevailest with re-
 sistless might,
 Ever from war and strife keep me
 away,
 My battles fight!"

I know not if I play the Pharisee,
 And if my brother after all be
 right;

But mine shall be the warrior's
plea to thee—
Strength for the fight!

I do not ask that thou shalt front
the fray,
And drive the warring foeman
from my sight;
I only ask, O Lord, by night, by
day,
Strength for the fight!

When foes upon me press, let me
not quail
Nor think to turn me into cow-
ard flight.
I only ask, to make mine arms
prevail,
Strength for the fight!

Still let mine eyes look ever on
the foe,

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Still let mine armor case me
strong and bright;
And grant me, as I deal each
righteous blow,
Strength for the fight!

And when, at eventide, the fray
is done,
My soul to Death's bedchamber
do thou light,
And give me, be the field or lost
or won,
Rest from the fight!

—*Paul Laurence Dunbar.*

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT
PRAYER

Abraham Lincoln learned to
pray where most men learn to
pray, at his mother's knees. Long
after her death, speaking of his

mother, he said, "I remember her prayers, and they have always followed me, and they've clung to me all my life."

On that rainy February afternoon when he left his home in Springfield with a task greater than that which rested upon Washington, he said to his neighbors, "Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him I cannot succeed, with that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

His wife said that after he had

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carefully read his First Inaugural Address to his family he went off by himself and spent a long time in prayer.

Lincoln himself told General Sickles just before the Battle of Gettysburg, when everybody seemed panic-stricken, "I went to my room one day. I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to Him that this was His war, our cause was His cause, but we could not stand another Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville. I then and there made a solemn vow to Almighty God that, if He would stand by our boys at Gettysburg, I would stand by Him." Not only did he pray himself continually and ask the prayers of others for himself and

the cause, but he made this request, that "prayer be made for divine protection to our soldiers and their leaders in the field who have so often and so gallantly perilled their lives in battling with the enemy and for blessings and comforts from the Father of Mercies to the sick, wounded and prisoners and the orphans and widows of those who have fallen in the service of their country."

He confessed that in all the great emergencies in the White House he had prayed. "I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nobody else to go to. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."

WHEN THE AIR MEN PRAYED

In 1910 Hawley and Post made their record-breaking voyage in the dirigible air craft *America*. They landed in northern Canada far from any human habitation and had a most thrilling experience in reaching civilization. After they landed Post said, "The air seemed charged with our safety. Two governments were doing everything within their power to reach out for us. . . . Hawley had a little prayer, tender and touching, which had been given him before starting, to be opened in the balloon, and now it gave forth its message in the hour of our greatest discouragement."

ment. But in reality our every thought was a prayer, for each of us realized without mentioning this fear to each other that our lives might be drawing to a close."

WHEN PEARY PRAYED

When Admiral Peary (then Commander) began his last drive for the North Pole after his many heroic, though unsuccessful, attempts, he opened his heart toward the Supreme Intelligence for wisdom and guidance in his great quest. Here are his own words given after he came back.

"It has been said that well-directed labor toward a given end is the best kind of prayer for its attainment. But no man can live

for years surrounded by the great white mystery of the Arctic without feeling that within and behind it is an Intelligence—watchful and responsive. And if, standing there with my back to the world and my face toward that mystery, I dared to ask of It the boon for which I had labored so long, can any one wonder that I did so?"

WHEN HENRY M. STANLEY PRAYED

When Henry M. Stanley, the great explorer who found Livingstone, came back from the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition in 1890, after the most thrilling and trying experience in his wonderful career, he wrote to Sir William

McKinnon the following confession: "Constrained at the darkest hour to humbly confess that without God's help I was helpless, I vowed a vow in the forest solitudes that I would confess his aid before men. Silence as of death was round about me; it was midnight; I was weakened by illness, prostrated by fatigue and wan with anxiety for my white and black companions, whose fate was a mystery. In this physical and mental distress I besought God to give me back my people. Nine hours later we were exulting in rapturous joy. In full view of all was the crimson flag with its crescent and beneath its waving folds was the long-lost rear column. . . . All the armies of Europe could not have lent us

aid in our dire extremity—an army of explorers could not have traced us had we fallen, for deep, deep as utter oblivion had we been surely buried under the humus of the trackless wilds.”

Later on he gave this further personal testimony after his long life as an explorer: “Prayer made me stronger mentally and morally than any of my non-praying companions. It did not blind my eyes or dull my mind or close my ears, but on the contrary it gave me confidence. It did more. It lifted me hopefully over fifteen hundred miles of forest treks eager to face the day’s perils and fatigues.”

CHARLES DICKENS'
ADVICE
TO HIS BOY
WHEN LEAVING HOME

Charles Dickens' youngest boy, Edward Bulwer Lytton Dickens, was born in 1852. When he was sixteen years old he left home and went to Australia. His father wrote him a letter of comradeship and advice, part of which is worth passing on to every boy leaving home.

"I put a New Testament among your books for the very same reasons and with the very same hopes, that made me write an easy account of it for you, when you were a little child. Because it is the best book that

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ever was, or will be, known in the world; and because it teaches you the best lessons by which any human creature, who tries to be truthful and faithful to duty, can possibly be guided. As your brothers have gone away, one by one, I have written to each such words as I am now writing to you, and have entreated them all to guide themselves by this Book, putting aside the interpretations and inventions of man. You will remember that you have never at home been harassed about religious observances, or mere formalities. I have always been anxious not to weary my children with such things, before they are old enough to form opinions respecting them. You will therefore understand the better that I now

most solemnly impress upon you the truth and beauty of the Christian Religion, as it came from Christ Himself, and the impossibility of your going far wrong if you humbly but heartily respect it. Only one thing more on this head. The more we are in earnest as to feeling it, the less we are disposed to hold forth about it. Never abandon the wholesome practice of saying your own private prayers, night and morning. I have never abandoned it myself, and I know the comfort of it."

SECTION II

WHY MEN PRAY

WHY MEN PRAY

Prayer is one of the natural impulses of the heart and one of the common instincts of humanity. It is not the exclusive property of any religion. Prayer has a place in all the religions of mankind. It comes out of human longings and human needs. It is not something that has been devised and put over on the human race by church or priests or religions.

Nearly all men pray at some time in their lives. In times of danger, in times of sorrow, in times of crisis men who seldom pray have opened their hearts, if they have not lifted up their voices to God. How much better

for such people, if prayer were not simply a last resort, but a life habit.

Harry E. Fosdick has compared these two methods in a parable that is worth repeating. "Consider a new parable of a father and his two sons. One son looked upon his father as a last resort in critical need. He never came to him for friendly conference, never sought his advice, in little difficulties never was comforted by his help. He did not make his father his confidant. He went to college and wrote home only when he wanted money. He fell into disgrace, and called on his father only when he needed legal aid. He ran his life with utter disregard of his father's character or purpose, and turned

to him only when in desperate straits. The other son saw in his father's love the supreme motive of his life. He was moved by daily gratitude so that to be well-pleasing to his father was his joy and his ideal. His father was his friend. He confided in him, was advised by him, kept close to him, and in *his* crises came to his father with a naturalness born of long habit, like Jesus, who having prayed without ceasing, now at last bows in Gethsemane. *Is there any doubt as to which is the nobler son? And is not the former type a true picture of our relationship with God when we leave prayer to be a merely instinctive and untrained cry of need?"*

WHAT PRAYER IS

Prayer is not a lazy man's device to dispense with work. It is no use to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," unless we reënforce it with our very best efforts. God never does things for us that we can do ourselves.

Prayer is not all petition; it is talking over with Our Father the things of greatest importance and nearest to our hearts.

Prayer is not saying our prayers or using words.

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed,
The motion of a hidden fire,
That trembles in the breast."

Our true prayers are the things we want most of all.

The highest form of prayer is not an attempt to persuade God to see things and do things our way.

“Prayer is a fighting for power to see and courage to do the will of God.”

JESUS AS A MAN OF PRAYER

Not only did Jesus teach his disciples to pray and much of his teaching has to do with prayer, but we find prayer as a habit of his own life.

When tired and weary he went into the mountains alone to pray. He recovered strength and vigor in these seasons of prayer. Occasionally he took with him several of his disciples, as at Gethsemane, for a season of prayer.

Jesus always prayed before taking any important step in his life. He prayed at the beginning of his ministry, at the time of his temptation; when he was about to choose the Twelve Apostles

“He went up into the mountain and continued all night in prayer to God.” He was praying at the time of the Transfiguration. The greatest scene of prayer in all his life was undoubtedly in Gethsemane, when he reached the climax of all prayer: “Nevertheless not my will, but Thine be done.” His last words on the cross were words of prayer: “Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.”

If Jesus needed to pray, how much more do we need to pray! If he found strength and power and comfort in prayer, so may we.

CAN GOD ANSWER PRAYER?

Because God is our Father he does not grant all our requests. A little child creeping on the floor sees the blazing fire in the grate and cries, "Pretty, pretty," and wants to play with the fire; but the mother does not grant the child's request. Far from it; she teaches him it will burn and hurt, and perhaps gives him a bright ball to distract his attention. The little toddling boy begs for his father's razor, but does the father give the child this means of great harm to the little boy? No, because he loves him and knows better. So we ask for things in our childish ignorance just as harmful,

and because our Father loves us he does not grant our prayers.

He gives us our needs rather than our wants. He gives many times better things than we ask for.

Our prayers are unanswered sometimes because we ourselves ought to work out the answers by our own brain and brawn. Oftentimes it is our own fault, because we are not ready to receive the good things that our Father has for us, and yet again we are impatient with God and do not bide and wait his time. Most often our prayers are not answered because we do not understand what prayer is and do not know how to pray. We need to make our chief prayer, "Lord, teach us how to pray."

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A Confederate soldier wrote out of his own experience the following:

“He asked for strength that he might achieve; he was made weak that he might obey.

“He asked for health that he might do greater things; he was given infirmity that he might do better things.

“He asked for riches that he might be happy; he was given poverty that he might be wise.

“He asked for power that he might have the praise of men; he was given weakness that he might feel the need of God.

“He asked for all things that he might enjoy life; he was given Life that he might enjoy all things.

“He has received nothing that he asked for; all that he hoped for. His prayer is answered.

“He is most blessed.”

SECTION III

PRAYERS OF THE
YOUNG MAN

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God, Giver of life and time, another year has passed from time into life. We give freely and gladly into thy hands. Only from the past year may we learn to make this next year better. Help us to seek earnestly the best things. May we strive for the highest, not the easiest. May we put our best into our work, not for the reward we get but for thy sake and the world's sake. This year we would seek not glory but service. May we not be jealous of others' success. May we be friendly in our rivalry, honest in our sport, clean in our life and brotherly in all our meet-

ing together. May we be loyal to our country, worthy of our family, helpful in our church and in our community. Keep us all through the year true to our principles, true to our friends, true to ourselves and true to thee. In the name of him who is the Life, the Truth and the Way. *Amen.*

FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Heavenly Father, for the time of beginning again we thank thee. That we can leave the mistakes, the failures and the weaknesses of other years, we rejoice. Help us, O Father, not to try to live on past achievements or to pride ourselves on laurels already won. Rather may the days that have gone be an incentive for us to do "our utmost for the highest" in the days that come.

May we do our best not only for our own sakes and our own honor, but for the sake of our family, for the good of the school, for the welfare of all boys, for the better equipment of our lives for

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service, and for the honor of thy name.

In all our contests in the school-room, in debates, or in athletics may we play fair, deal honorably and work hard, and whether we win or lose may we play the man.

With our comrades may we be helpful, with our friends loyal, with our enemies forgiving, with our teachers courteous and with everybody friendly.

For the new year of school give us more faith in the right, a broader vision of what an education means, greater courage to live up to our convictions and more loyalty to the truth, to our own best selves and to thee.

Above all, may we learn to live from the Great Teacher of life, who said, "Learn of me; I will

make you meek and lowly of heart
and ye shall find rest unto your
souls." In his name. *Amen.*

ON SUNDAY

Our Father and our God, we thank thee for this day of rest, this break in the work of the week. May we put this day to its best use. May we get rest and refreshment so that we may go to our work this week with new strength and vigor. As we go to thy house, may we get finer ideals of manliness, broader views of the truth, stronger faith in God and righteousness, more courage to fight temptations and sin, and a new sense of service. May our worship this day be of the life as well as of the lips, from the heart and from the soul. Today may we find some ways to help another—to lend a hand to

a fellow who needs; to strengthen some fellow who is tempted, to cheer the discouraged or to comfort some one who is lonely.

In His name who went about doing good. *Amen.*

FOR THE MORNING

We thank thee, Father, for the new day with all its new opportunities and the duties which it brings. May we face the new day with courage and cheer. May we take up its tasks with enthusiasm and energy. We pray not for an easy life but for strength for the day's duties, for wisdom to make the right choices and for confidence and faith to meet the unexpected. May we watch as well as pray against temptations. May we overcome obstacles and defeat difficulties. Not for ourselves alone we pray, but for our comrades and friends, that they too may do their best and be their

best. If we have any enemies, remove their hatred and our harsh feelings. May we this day and every day lend our hands, our heads and our hearts

“For the cause that lacks assistance,
'Gainst the wrongs that need resistance
And the good that we can do.”

In the name of our great Helper and Friend. *Amen.*

FOR EVENING

Our Father, another day is done! With all its victories and defeats, with all its work and play, with all its joy and sorrow, we bring it to thee. Forgive its failures and mistakes. Accept whatever good has been accomplished as our evening offering. Help us to forgive all who have injured us or abused us this day. Cleanse our hearts from evil thoughts and hard feelings. Grant us peace of mind and a clean conscience, so that we may have sleep and rest and rise refreshed to do thy work and our work with credit to ourselves and honor to thee. To thy care and keeping we commend ourselves and those whom we love.

In the Master's name. *Amen.*

WHEN HE IS LEAVING HOME

Heavenly Father, I thank thee for the home of my boyhood, for my Christian training and the example of my father and mother. For the open door of larger opportunity which is now before me, I am thankful. May I be worthy in the days that come, of all that has been given me in the days that have gone. Help me to overcome temptations and to choose the right kind of comrades. May I do my work well, so as to honor thee and be ready for larger service. Whatever the discouragements and difficulties, may I not lose heart. Whatever the disappointments and disenchantments

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in the men and women I meet,
may I never lose faith.

In all my search after success
and promotion, help me never to
forget the other fellow who needs
my friendship and a helping hand.

Above all, let me "live pure,
speak true, right wrong and fol-
low the King."

In the name of the young man's
Jesus. *Amen.*

FIRST NIGHT AWAY
FROM HOME

O God, I thank thee that thou art ever near—that wherever I go I can go with thee. When I leave behind home and friends and all that is dearest—still thou art with me. With thee I can talk as to an intimate Friend and a great Adviser. Thou art not far away but very near. Help me to-night to feel thee near. May I do nothing when I am away from home that I should be ashamed to do there. May I be true to the teachings of that home. Give me success, if it be possible, that will please and honor my people, but keep me true and clean so that I may honor them and thee. Help me to overcome temptations and

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may I be watchful to help and strengthen other lives.

In the name of the Young Man who, though he had not where to lay his head, was always loyal to his Father. *Amen.*

WHEN UNITING WITH THE CHURCH

O God, as I come into thy Church, I would dedicate my life freely and fully to thy service. I would leave behind the past with its sins and its mistakes. I would take a new start in life. May my life bear witness for thee. Give me greater reverence for thee, and greater sympathy for others. May I be a disciple of Jesus, learning what he has to teach, a follower of Jesus, treading in his footsteps, a believer in Jesus, trusting my life fully to him, and a worker striving to do Christ's work in Christ's way. May I not only seek help in the Church for living the Christian

life, but may I desire earnestly to give my best to the Master's service. Help me to be willing to support my own church by attendance, by gifts, with my time and my talents, as much as in me lieth. May my motto and endeavor be, "For Christ and the Church."

In the name of him who is the great Head of the Church. *Amen.*

ON HIS BIRTHDAY

For another year of life I give thee thanks, O Father. For the health and strength and for the growing power of manhood, I am glad. Forgive the mistakes and failures of the weeks that have gone. So many things have been left undone or have been poorly done. For the year that is before me I am glad and hopeful. May it be a year of growth in heart and life as well as body. May I be better fitted for the work of life. Help me to decide the questions of life work rightly. Show me what I ought to do. Save me from meanness and selfishness of ambition. Open my eyes to the great opportunities.

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May I see things in the large.
Help me to keep my mind open
to the truth, my heart open to
others' need, and my life open to
thee. May this be life's best year
as I start anew today. May I
remember Jesus Christ all the
days.

In his name. *Amen.*

FOR VACATION TIME

For the days of rest and recreation, I thank thee.

For the opportunity to get fit for large service, I am glad.

For the period of play, I give thanks with my whole heart.

May I use this playtime and rest period for the very best purposes. Forbid that I should indulge in any play or amusement that shall degrade my manhood or that shall injure any one else.

While I am off duty from work, may I never forget my honor and my responsibility to thee. Save me from mere selfishness in my recreation. May I find happiness by helping the other fellow to have a good time.

When I am away from home, may I still feel its influence. Help me to show my allegiance to thee, thy cause, the Church and my Christian training wherever I may go. May my eyes and heart be open to the best. May I return refreshed and strengthened for another year, with higher ideals and strength to live them.

In his name who said, Come unto me and rest. *Amen.*

WHEN HE IS SUCCESS- FUL

Help me, O Father, to realize each day that whatever strength and talents I have are gifts from thee. Teach me to use them, not only that they may grow, but that always by them I may honor thee. Keep me from losing my head because some success has crowned my labors. Let me have no undue sense of my importance. Keep me humble, companionable and straight. May I ever be friendly with the boys who have tried and failed. Make me ever ready to help the weak and the unfortunate. Save me from being a snob or a Pharisee. Help me ever to do my best. If the future

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days have defeat for me, help me to lose bravely, loyally and as cheerfully as in the times of victory.

Whatever comes of praise or blame, defeat or distinction, of sacrifice or of service, help me to play the man and follow even in the footsteps of the Man of Nazareth. In his name. *Amen.*

WHEN HE IS DIS-
COURAGED

Thou God of justice and mercy,
I come to thee in the hour of need
and discouragement. My heart
cries out for a Friend and a
Helper. Though I have tried
and failed, worked and not won,
struggled, and not gotten the vic-
tory, thou wilt not fail me in my
time of trouble.

Forgive me because I have not
attained, but most of all because
I am discouraged. O God, I am
not praying for an easier life or
lighter task. Give me strength to
do the work that thou hast given
me to do. Help me to feel that
it is thy work for me. Add to my
strength faith in thee and in the
rightness of my task. Give me

more courage, that in the future I may play the man and neither the coward nor the fool.

Thou dost always give and forgive. Give me a second chance to make good. May I take my part in suffering hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

In the name of my great Captain, whom I would follow.
Amen.

WHEN HE IS TEMPTED

O God, my Helper and Strength, I come to thee in time of need. My heart cries out for help to resist the temptation that is so near and the danger that is so real. Strengthen my power to resist evil. Reënforce my faith in thee and in the right. May my courage not fail me nor my heart faint.

O Father, thou dost care for me. Thou wilt give me sympathy as well as strength, hope as well as help, and confidence as well as courage.

May I win the victory over my baser, meaner self, over the suggestions from without and the desires from within that lead to

defeat and disgrace. May I be stronger for the victory over sin and selfishness and farther along on the road to manhood.

In His name, who fought the good fight and encourages every boy in the fight for character.
Amen.

IN SICKNESS

O God, our Refuge and Strength, a very present Help in time of trouble! In times of trial and suffering we turn to thee with an especial longing. In times of weakness we come to thee for strength and in our suffering come to thee for comfort and consolation. If it be possible, give me back my strength and restore me to my usual health so that I may do my work and thy work.

Make me patient to bear my suffering and brave to endure hardness, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Help me to realize my dependence on thee. May the sickness make me more gentle and less selfish. Out of this may there

come a larger sympathy for others, because I can understand their needs and weakness better. Whatever the outcome, may I give my life into thy keeping to use as shall best honor thee and benefit my fellows.

In the name of him who triumphed at Gethsemane and Calvary. *Amen.*

IN TIME OF SORROW

O thou Great Helper in any time of need and Friend in all our troubles, help me to bear my sorrow. Help me not to lose heart or hope—but to get strength from thee to bear whatever comes. Deliver me from fear and help me to face the pain and grief like a man whose trust is in thee.

O God, thou alone canst bind up the broken-hearted and comfort them that mourn—give me comfort and consolation, but above all make me more faithful in my trust of thee whatever comes; make me ready to comfort others in sorrow and distress, more sympathetic with those who carry heavy burdens—and more and

more a brother to the weak and suffering. I learn in the school of sorrow and suffering the deeper meanings of life and how to help others; then my sorrow shall not be in vain.

In the name of the Great Burden Bearer. *Amen.*

WHEN THE WORK IS HARD

O Father, the burdens are heavy. The way is hard, and I grow weary under the load. Give me, I pray, strength just for today, for today's duties, today's task, today's work and today's worries. Help me as the work goes hard not to lose patience, nor my temper, nor heart. I need Thee and faith and trust in Thee when the times are hard. Help me constantly to live in the attitude and atmosphere of prayer as I go about my daily work. May the spirit of faith and confidence steady my nerves. Strengthen my hand and fortify my heart, so that

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when the day is done it shall have been another day of work for Thee and of service for humanity. Reënforce my will. Strengthen me against temptation. Help me to do my work and thine without complaint, without whining and without faltering.

In the name of the great Worker of and for mankind.
Amen.

IN TIME OF WAR

O God, thou art King of kings, and Lord of lords! Over all and above all, thou art God. To thee I owe and own my first and my fullest allegiance.

In these days of conflict and war, may I be faithful to thee. Teach me thy way, and lead me in a plain path. Show me my duty to thee, to my country, my home and myself.

Give me the faith and the courage to do that duty at any cost or at any sacrifice. If I am needed at the front, may I bear myself like a man and never disgrace my country by cowardice, or disgrace thy cause by an unclean or sinful life. If my duty lies here at home,

help me to do it uncomplainingly and efficiently.

Most of all, I desire to be of service to thee, my country and humanity. Not for glory in fame or reward do I pray, but simply that unafraid and loyal I may do my whole duty—in the spirit of Him who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. *Amen.*

WHEN HE HAS BEEN WRONGED

O Father, my heart aches and my feelings are badly hurt. My whole being reels as though struck a savage blow. It is hard to suffer and be still. I come to Thee for Thou dost understand both me and my trouble. Help me to remember how Jesus suffered shame, humiliation, loneliness, betrayal, and death. Make me realize that he bore it all without faltering or flinching, and that above all he cried, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." Help me to forgive the injury. Take away resentment, vengeance, malice and harshness

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from my heart. For courage to bear the pain and strength to forgive the wrong—again I pray. For Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

FOR FORGIVENESS

O God, I have done wrong. I have not played the man, but have fallen before temptation. I am ashamed and humiliated that I should shame thee and disgrace myself. God be merciful to me a sinner. Forgive me for my sin and defeat. Help me to make all the amends and reparation in my power to the people who have been injured and hurt. Help me to be so sorry for this wrong-doing that I shall never do it again. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. In the name and for the sake of Jesus, my Savior. *Amen.*

FOR THE OTHER
FELLOW

O Father, my heart goes out to Thee for my comrade and friend. I want him to know Thee better and love Thee more. I want him to be an out-and-out Christian. Show me how to help him. May my influence be always toward that end. Give me the right words to say at the right time. Above all may I not play the Pharisee by my holier-than-thou actions or words. May I be a good friend and a loyal Christian without making my religion a bore. Help me to be a manly Christian, a good comrade and a real help whenever we are together.

In the name of my Great Friend. *Amen.*

IN TIME OF DOUBT

Dear Father, there are so many things that I cannot understand, so many questions that come into mind that I cannot answer. Help me to find my way in the darkness. Give me the confidence in Thee that a son should have in his father. Where I cannot see give me faith and trust to go with Thee. When doubts and difficulties trouble me—may I never prove false to the truth, to the pure life, to the right, to my conscience and to Thee. So may my strength grow under the stress and struggle, so may I steadfastly and surely hold on to the things which cannot fail and to Thee in the name of Him who endured all things for my sake. *Amen.*

IN TIME OF DECISION

O God, and Dearest Friend, I am come to the parting of the ways, to the crossroads of life. I need wisdom to decide which way to go. Help me to be clear of vision, looking far into the years; to lift above my ambition a real desire to do the right thing. May I be willing to take the hard road, if it is the way of life. Give me strength to decide and choose with deep thought of the result of my choice upon others as well as upon my own career.

Take away fear of the consequences and any desire to dodge the issue and help me to face and decide it like a man. May my chief ambition be to stand on Thy

side and the side of right at all costs and at every hazard.

In the name of that Big Brother who never failed or faltered in His choice, though it led to the cross. *Amen.*



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